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AUG 1 5 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Kong Weng Lee, et al.	:	
Application No. 10/812,526	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 29, 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 70030845-1	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed on March 29 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application set forth in the amendment filed with the petition.

There is no indication that the petition is signed by a registered patent attorney or patent agent of record. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34, the signature of Reginald A. Ratliff appearing on the correspondence shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party on whose behalf he acts. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to Mr. Ratliff, however; if Mr. Ratliff desires to receive correspondence regarding this file, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. All future correspondence regarding this application file will be directed solely to the address of record.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was

unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not satisfy items (1) and (2) above.

As to item (1) The reference to add the above-noted, prior-filed application on page one following the first sentence of the specification is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed application. An incorporation by reference statement added after an application's filing date is not effective because no new matter can be added to an application after its filing date (*see* 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)). If an incorporation by reference statement is included in an amendment to the specification to add a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 after the filing date of the application, the amendment would not be proper. When a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is submitted after the filing of an application, the reference to the prior application cannot include an incorporation by reference statement of the prior application. *See Dart Industries v. Banner*, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980). *Note* MPEP §§ 201.06(c) and 608.04(b).

As to item (2) Petitioner submitted authorization to charge the requisite surcharge to a deposit account; however, the deposit account identified is not active.

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition, the 1,370 surcharge, and either an Application Data Sheet or an amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121 and 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5)) to correct the above matters are required.

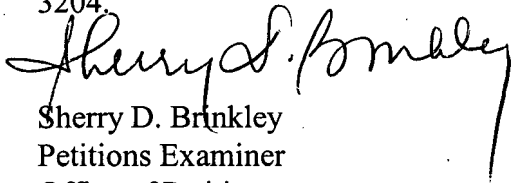
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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By fax: (571) 273-8300
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Sherry Brinkley at (571) 272-3204.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry D. Brinkley", is written over the typed name and title.

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc: REGINALD A. RATLIFF
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